

Message Text

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ORIGIN AID-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 HA-05 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 /056 R

DRAFTED BY AID/PP/PDPR/CP- TSILVERSTONE:DFP
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AF/I- LGSHURTLEFF
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AID/AFR/DP-CWARD
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R 250730Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAID, SHUM, GH, SL, CG, US

SUBJECT:HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM UNDER SECTION 116(E) OF THE
FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT/CENTER FOR LAW AND SOCIAL POLICY

1. UNDER SECTION 116(E) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT,
AID IS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS THAT ENCOURAGE OR PRO-
MOTE INCREASED ADHERENCE TO CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS,
AS SET FORTH IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS,
IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IN CARRYING OUT THIS PROGRAM,
AID IS BARRED FROM ALLOWING ITS FUNDS TO BE USED, DIRECTLY
OR INDIRECTLY, TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF ANY ELECTION
IN ANY COUNTRY.

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2. AID HAS RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM THE CENTER FOR LAW
AND SOCIAL POLICY TO SUPPORT A NEW ACTIVITY OF THE CENTER,
TO BE DIRECTED BY LEONARD MEEKER, FORMER LEGAL ADVISOR TO
THE DEPARTMENT, WHO DIRECTS THE CENTER'S INTERNATIONAL
WORK. THE CENTER IS A WELL ESTABLISHED WASHINGTON-BASED
PUBLIC INTEREST LAW ORGANIZATION WHICH IS INDEPENDENT OF

THE USG AND FREQUENTLY TAKES PUBLIC STANDS AGAINST THE USG.

3. THE CENTER PROPOSES TO DEVELOP CONTACTS BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND LAWYER GROUPS OR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE BAR

IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHO ASSIST IN UNPOPULAR CAUSES WHERE POLITICAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS RECOGNIZED IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ARE AT ISSUE. THE ULTIMATE OBJECT OF THE PROJECT IS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO INDIVIDUAL LAWYERS AND BAR ASSOCIATIONS ENGAGED IN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES.

4. THE PRESENT REQUEST TO AID IS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ENABLE THE CENTER TO SEND A LAWYER TO DISCUSS LOCAL INTEREST IN THIS PROGRAM IN SELECTED COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND AFRICA. THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES CHOSEN BY THE CENTER ARE GHANA, SIERRA LEONE, AND ZAIRE. THE SELECTION DOES NOT INDICATE A DETERMINATION THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES IS JUDGED TO BE POOR. ON THE CONTRARY, THE CENTER'S PROGRAM IS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE SITUATION IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR LEGAL REPRESENTATION TO BE POSSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE IN PROMOTING JUSTICE.

5. THE CENTER WILL BE INDEPENDENT OF DIRECT U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTROL AND WILL NOT SEEK OR EXPECT LOGISTIC OR OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSISTANCE FROM THE EMBASSY OR USAID, ALTHOUGH THEY WILL WELCOME CONTACT IF THE EMBASSY OR USAID WISHES TO BE IN TOUCH WITH THEM.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: AT PRESENT, AID, HA, AND AF SUPPORT THE IDEA IN PRINCIPLE, SUBJECT TO COUNTRY TEAM COMMENTS. PLEASE ADVISE NOT LATER THAN 2 JUNE.

7. FOR KINSHASA: ABOVE IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY. WE HAD ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO SUGGEST ZAIRE AS POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR SUBJECT PROGRAM. WE MAY BE BACK TO YOU LATER ONCE THE DUST HAS SETTLED. CHRISTOPHER

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